

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

The media is so obviously important to the management and validity of our government that it's beyond discussion. The fact that you are willing to allow it to become centralized under corporate tutelage to such an extent is scandalous. Rather than giving corporate America (which indeed has its own political agenda) more control over the flow of information in this country, why not think about expanding the amount of publically run media outlets, ie NPR, Pacifica, college radio, community radio, cable access, Free Speech TV, among many others. This would not only increase the public's ability to communicate its ideas free of the filter of private business, but it would increase the chance of actually having a free, relevant dialogue in this country. Please think carefully about these things and then consider your own commitment to democracy. This is no small issue!